

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 15-23 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Entry of Amendment

Applicants submit that entry of the present amendment and full consideration thereof is appropriate. In the present amendment, applicants have cancelled all of the non-allowed claims, which places the application *prima facie* in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 15-23 as being allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 8, 9, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Ishizuka (UK 2335242) and Tadane et al. (JP06-235420). Claims 4-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Ishizuka and Tadane et al. and further in view of Nakamura et al. (JP2000/078796). Claims 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Ishizuka, Tadane et al., Nakamura et al. and further in view of Wyatt (U.S. Patent 4,471,331). Claim 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Ishizuka and Tadane et al.

and further in view of Weilbach (U.S. Patent 5,019,738). Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Ishizuka and Tadane et al. and further in view of Mendelsohn (U.S. Patent 2,582,788). Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. as being obvious over Ishizuka, Tadane et al., Nakamura et al. and further in view of Mehta et al. (U.S. Patent 5,883,449). These rejections are all respectfully traversed. Since claims 1-14 have been cancelled, all of these rejections are rendered moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, please contact Robert F. Gnuse, Reg. No. 27,295 at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP.

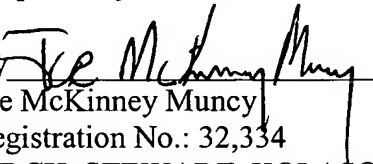
Application No. 10/656,331
Amendment dated June 2, 2006
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Docket No.:0941-0834P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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